What is claimed is:

1. An electronic discard unit comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU);

an identification database accessible by the CPU;

a content database accessible by the CPU;

at least one input device coupled to the CPU;

the CPU executing programmatic software to perform functions including:

using the at least one input device to obtain a code corresponding to a discarded item;

identifying the discarded item by referring to the identification database;

updating the content database to include an entry corresponding to the identified discarded item; and

generating a re-order instruction for replacing the discarded item.

2. An electronic discard unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage chamber for storing a discarded item therein; and

a controller, the controller coupled to the CPU and controlling access to the storage chamber.

3. An electronic discard unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least two storage chambers for storing a discarded item therein; and

a controller, the controller being coupled to the CPU and controlling access to each of the at least two storage chambers.

4. An electronic discard unit according to claim 3, wherein the CPU executes programmatic software to further perform the function of updating the content database to include the selected storage chamber of the discarded item.

5. An electronic discard unit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one input device includes a bar code scanner.

6. An electronic discard unit according to claim 3, wherein the means for controlling access to each of the at least two storage chambers includes a computer

operated access port disposed at an opening of each of the at least two storage chambers.

7. An electronic discard unit according to claim 1, further comprising a network adaptor electrically coupling the CPU to a communication network.

8. An electronic discard unit according to claim 7, wherein the CPU executes programmatic software to further perform the function of transmitting the re-order instruction to a supplier using the communication network.

9. An electronic discard unit according to claim 8, wherein the CPU executes programmatic software to further perform the function of confirming to a user of the electronic discard unit that the re-order instruction was processed.

10. A trash receiving unit comprising:

a holding container;

a computer operably coupled to the holding container, the computer having a central processing unit and at least one user operable input device;

a content database accessible by the computer;

the computer being operable to execute programmatic software instructions to perform the functions of:

updating the content database with information regarding a trash item stored the holding container;

receiving input from the at least one user operable input device, the received input including an instruction to reorder the trash item; and

generating a re-order instruction corresponding to the trash item in the holding container.

11. A trash receiving unit according to claim 10, further comprising a bar code scanner for reading an identification code from the trash item.

12. A trash receiving unit according to claim 10, wherein the computer is voice controllable.

13. A trash receiving unit according to claim 10, further comprising a network adapter coupling the computer to a communication network.

14. A trash receiving unit according to claim 10, wherein the computer executes programmatic software to further perform the function of transmitting the re-order instruction to a supplier.

15. A trash receiving unit according to claim 10, wherein the holding container has at least two separate storage sections which are independently selectable by the computer for storage of the trash item.

16. A trash receiving unit according to claim 15, wherein the computer selects one of the at least two storage sections based on at least one predefined recycling guideline.

17. An electronic trash system comprising:

one or more electronic discard units, each unit comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU);

an identification database accessible by the CPU;

a content database accessible by the CPU;

at least one input device coupled to the CPU;

the CPU executing programmatic software to perform functions including:

using the at least one input device to obtain a code corresponding to a discarded item;

identifying the discarded item by referring to the identification database;

updating the content database to include an entry corresponding to the identified discarded item;

generating a re-order instruction for replacing the discarded item;

a central database; and

a communication networked coupling the one or more electronic discard units to the central database.

18. An electronic trash system according to claim 17, wherein each of the computers executes programmatic software to further perform the function of updating the central database with data from the content databases.

19. An electronic trash system according to claim 17, wherein each of the computers executes programmatic software to further perform the function of transmitting the re-order instruction to a supplier.

20. An electronic trash system according to claim 18, wherein each of the computers executes programmatic software to further perform the function of transmitting the re-order instruction to the central database.

21. An electronic trash system according to claim 20, wherein the central database transmits the re-order instruction to a supplier.

22. An electronic trash system according to claim 17, wherein the central database transmits information corresponding to the discarded item to a third party.

23. An electronic trash system according to claim 17, wherein the central database stores information corresponding to discarded items for use in statistical analysis.

24. An electronic trash system according to claim 20, wherein each of the computers executes programmatic software to further perform the function of transmitting a re-order confirmation to the user.

25. An electronic trash system according to claim 21, wherein the central database transmits a re-order confirmation to the user.

26. An electronic trash system according to claim 17, wherein each of the computers further executes programmatic software to further perform the function of informing the user that its corresponding storage chamber is full.

27. An electronically activated disposal unit comprising:

a storage container having a side defining an opening therein;

an input device operatively coupled to the opening for identifying a discarded item passing through the opening;

a computer operatively coupled to the input device;

a computer program executable by the computer, the computer program performing the functions of:

receiving a code corresponding to the discarded item from the input device;

identifying the discarded item based on the code;

updating a content database with information corresponding to the discarded item; and

generating a re-order instruction for a selected discarded item.

28. A trash disposal system comprising:

a storage container;

means for identifying an item placed in the storage container;

means for separating identified items according to one or more recycling rules; and

means for re-ordering the identified discarded item.

29. A method of disposing of an item using an electronic trash unit having a storage bin comprising;

scanning the item for a machine readable code;

storing the machine readable code in an electronic storage medium;

generating a re-order instruction for the item based on the machine readable code;

storing the item in the storage bin; and

updating a content database with information regarding the item.